

**ETHICS COMMISSION  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

715 SOUTH KING STREET, SUITE 211 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3091  
PHONE: (808) 768-7786 • FAX: (808) 768-7768 • EMAIL: [ethics@honolulu.gov](mailto:ethics@honolulu.gov) • INTERNET: [www.honolulu.gov/ethics](http://www.honolulu.gov/ethics)

KIRK CALDWELL  
MAYOR



CHARLES W. TOTTO  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR &  
AND LEGAL COUNSEL

March 9, 2015

The Honorable Ann H. Kobayashi, Chair  
and Members of the Budget Committee  
Honolulu City Council  
530 South King Street, Suite 202  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Kobayashi and Councilmembers:

SUBJECT: FY 2016 Operating Budget Review Testimony for Honolulu  
Ethics Commission, Tuesday March 10, 2015, 1:00 p.m.

Good afternoon Chair Kobayashi and Members of the Budget Committee. My name is Chuck Totto, and I am the Executive Director and Legal Counsel for the Honolulu Ethics Commission.

The Commission's proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget is \$425,763, which is \$42,624 more than the FY15 budget. The majority of the increase over FY15 results from higher salaries (\$14,128) and an increase for consultant services (\$22,500).

For FY15, the Commission expects to receive 125 complaints requiring investigation. This is 40% over the last five years' average of 89 complaints. We have no reason to believe that the continuing trend of more serious and complex misconduct investigations will abate in FY16.

But we only have one investigator. Other county and state administrative investigators carry a case load of about 25 cases per year. Our goal in investigations is to either clear the official or correct the misconduct. Without at least another investigator, the Commission is unable to fulfill its mandate to timely render opinions on complaints of misconduct. As a result, the Commission will continue to prioritize cases based on factors such as the harm to the public's trust in City government and cost savings to the taxpayers.

RECEIVED  
CITY CLERK  
C & C OF HONOLULU  
2015 MAR -9 PM 2:14

DEPT. COM. 147

The Honorable Ann H. Kobayashi. Chair  
and Members of the Budget Committee  
March 9, 2015  
Page 2

Regarding position vacancies, the Commission is in the process of filling our one investigator position with a civil service employee. To date, this position has been filled under a personal services contract. We continue to work with DHR regarding the creation of the position of Assistant Legal Counsel.

Thank you. I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles W. Tutto".

Charles W. Tutto

cc: Nelson H. Koyanagi, Jr., Director, Department of Budget and Fiscal Services  
Roy K. Amemiya, Jr., Managing Director  
Budgetary Administration Division  
Department of Corporation Counsel